

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 TRSE-00 INT-08

NEA-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 COME-00

IO-14 OMB-01 CIEP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /157 W

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R 071529Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2017

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENGR, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN OIL

1. FMG COMMISSIONER MINES AND POWER ALI MONGUNO RETURNED FROM KUWAIT AND IRAQ DECEMBER 6. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS HE REPEATED (LAGOS 8929, LAGOS 9009) NIGERIA'S DECISION NOT TO INCREASE CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO BENEFIT FROM ARAB EMBARGO. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT NIGERIA HAS "FREE MARKET FOR CRUDE OIL" WHICH, ACCORDING TO LAGOS DAILY TIMES VERSION EXTENDS TO "ALL NATIONS EXCEPT PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND OTHER RACIST COUNTRIES"; BUT NEW NIGERIAN HAS COMMISSONER SAYING NIGERIA "WOULD NOT ON ANY CONDITION SELL HER OIL TO ANY COUNTRY TO WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT WAS NOT KINDLY DISPOSED." IN EXPANDING ON STATEMENT RE INCREASE IN PRODUCTION, COMISSIONER OBSERVED "TO DO THIS WILL RUN COUNTER TO THE DECISION OF THE OAU WHICH NIGERIA IS A MEMBER."

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2. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO COMMISSIONER

AS CONFIRMATION CURRENT POLICY OF MAKING CRUDE AVAILABLE
TO ALL DESTINATIONS EXCEPT SOUTHERN AFRICA. USE OF PHRASE
"KINDLY DISPOSED" INTRODUCES CERTAIN AMBIGUITY, AND THIS
WAS PROBABLY INTENTIONAL IN ORDER RESERVE FREEDOM OF
ACTION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE IT SIGNALS
CHANGE OF POLICY OR THAT NIGERIA CONTEMPLATING RESTRICTIONS
ON OIL SALES TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
REINHARDT

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005